

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2070

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, VE
SUBJECT: PORT CONGESTION - PUERTO CABELLO

REF: (A) STATE 103618, (B) CARACAS 1936

1. PORT CONGESTION IN PUERTO CABELLO IS GREATLY REDUCED FROM LEVELS OF ONE YEAR EARLIER. NORMALLY THERE ARE ABOUT 5-7 VESSELS AWAITING BERTH SPACE WITH A WAITING PERIOD FOR BREAKBULK CARRIERS OF ABOUT THREE DAYS. IN TOTAL, SEVEN NEW DOCKS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO PUERTO CABELLO'S CAPACITY (INCLUDING TWO FLOATING DOCKS). OTHER MEASURES TAKEN TO REDUCE CONGESTION ARE:

- (1) INP'S REROUTING OF VESSELS TO LESS CONGESTED PORTS
- (2) MOVING AS MUCH CARGO AS POSSIBLE TO GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE, AND MILITARY WAREHOUSES AWAY FROM THE PORTS
- (3) SOME EASING OF BUREAUCRATIC REQUIREMENTS FOR CUSTOM'S CLEARANCE
- (4) THE USE OF MORE CONTAINERS BY VENEZUELAN PRIVATE LINES.

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HOWEVER, THE MAJOR REASON FOR LESS CONGESTION IS THAT FEWER VESSELS ARE CALLING AT VENEZUELAN PORTS DUE TO A REDUCTION OF IMPORTS.

2. MANY OF THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE INP TO REDUCE CONGESTION HAVE JUST SHIFTED THE COST BURDEN FROM THE SHIPPER TO THE IMPORTER. COST OF INLAND WAREHOUSING AND LOCATING MERCHANDISE

ONCE MOVED FROM THE PORTS IS PASSED ON TO THE IMPORTER. SO ARE COSTS INVOLVED WITH OVERLAND TRANSPORTATION FOR MERCHANDISE ON REROUTED VESSELS.

3. U.S. SHIPPING LINES ARE NORMALLY ABLE TO DOCK WITHIN 24 HOURS. PRUDENTIAL AND DELTA LASH VESSELS HAVE NO PROBLEM DISCHARGING BARGES WITHIN THIS PERIOD. PRUDENTIAL WEST COAST RECEIVES 24 HOUR PRIORITY BERTHING AS A PASSENGER CARRIER (ALTHOUGH CARGO IS ALSO CARRIED).

COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT U.S. LINES ARE NOW MAKING CONSIDERABLE PROFIT FROM THE PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE LEVIED.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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